

this week, the plan was approved by the Federal Court, so this is perfect timing to approve this bill today.

Though it required some technical corrections, it is satisfying to see this bill has already achieved passage in both Chambers. I wish for my colleague, Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, to be fully recovered in time to see it become law.

The intent of this legislation remains the same, and this bill will require any person or firm hired as legal, financial or technical staff or consultants for the Financial Oversight Board in the court cases for the restructuring of Puerto Rico's debt, to submit verified disclosures of all connections with debtors, creditors, or other interested parties in the process, before being compensated.

Our intention is not to exclude people with experience in Puerto Rico's financial transactions from being resources in the restructuring process, but it is essential that their connection to any parties interested in those transactions be known. Conflict of interest, or the appearance of conflict of interest, can be best avoided if there is accountability and transparency.

Anyone working to inform the Board's decisions, or representing it before the court, needs to be committed to defending the interests of the people of Puerto Rico first, in accordance with the law and justice.

Lack of transparency creates a lack of trust, and this bill will work toward avoiding that by making these disclosures a legal mandate rather than the Board's own discretion.

Our goal is to reach the day we no longer need the provisions of PROMESA and the Oversight Board, but until that happens, these instruments must be accountable and transparent.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021.

□ 1230

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I just reiterate that I think there is a lot of support in the Chamber, and I support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 1192 closes a loophole under current law by establishing disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest in the bankruptcy process under PROMESA. In doing so, this legislation promotes transparency and accountability in the Puerto Rico restructuring process.

I thank my colleague, Representative VELÁZQUEZ from New York, the author of the bill, for her leadership on this issue, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1192, the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021. I was proud to introduce this bill with bipartisan support in the House. I would like to thank House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Chairman JERRY NADLER for bringing this legislation to the floor and to Senator BOB MENENDEZ for introducing a companion bill in the Senate and for his tireless efforts to make sure this Bill would get approved in the Senate.

H.R. 1192 already unanimously passed this House back on February 24, 2021 and I expect to do so the same day.

The Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021 or "PRRADA" eliminates a double standard currently facing Puerto Rico. Under U.S. Code and Federal Bankruptcy procedure, any conflicts of interest—or even the perception of such conflict—between those working on the bankruptcy and the debtor are required to be disclosed.

However, a loophole in the current law prevents this requirement from being extended to the people of Puerto Rico.

In 2016, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, otherwise known as PROMESA. When PROMESA was originally passed, it incorporated Chapter 11's bankruptcy requirement that professionals file fee applications with the court. But PROMESA did not include Chapter 11's disclosure requirements that go hand-in-hand with those fee applications. PRRADA remedies this and makes sure that professionals paid by the taxpayers of Puerto Rico are fully transparent about what interests they are serving.

Puerto Ricans should be confident that the Board's bankruptcy advisors do not have their "thumb on the scale" to favor certain debts where they have a self-interest. This bipartisan bill ensures integrity and transparency of the PROMESA process.

While we can have differing opinions on how effectively the Oversight Board is carrying out its mission, one thing should be clear—the island's residents should be entitled to the same rights and protections as any debtor on the mainland.

Once more, I would like to thank Chairman NADLER, the Committee Staff and the bipartisan cosponsors of this bill. I strongly encourage all members to vote "Yes" on this critical piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1192.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GHOST ARMY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

1404) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the "Ghost Army", in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops (comprised of the 23d Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops, the 603d Engineer Camouflage Battalion, the 406th Combat Engineer Company, the 3132d Signal Service Company, and the Signal Company, Special, 23d Headquarters, Special Troops) and the 3133d Signal Service Company were units of the United States Army that served in Europe during World War II;

(2) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops was actively engaged in battlefield operations from June of 1944 through March of 1945;

(3) the 3133d Signal Service Company was engaged in operations in Italy in 1945;

(4) the deceptive activities of these units were integral to several Allied victories across Europe and reduced casualties;

(5) in evaluating the performance of these units after World War II, an Army analysis found that "Rarely, if ever, has there been a group of such a few men which had so great an influence on the outcome of a major military campaign.";

(6) many Ghost Army soldiers were citizen-soldiers recruited from art schools, advertising agencies, communications companies, and other creative and technical professions;

(7) the first 4 members of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops landed on D-Day and 2 became casualties while creating false beach landing sites;

(8) a detachment of Army radio operators under the command of Lieutenant Fred Fox joined the invasion fleet for a planned deception, Operation Troutfly, which was cancelled;

(9) Lieutenant Fox's men and their radios were instead attached to the 82d Airborne, which had lost 95 percent of its radio equipment, providing critical communications as the 82d Airborne fought its way inland;

(10) the secret deception operations of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops commenced in France on June 14, 1944, when Task Force Mason, a 16-man detachment of the 23d led by First Lieutenant Bernard Mason, arrived in Normandy;

(11) Lieutenant Mason and his men set up dummy artillery to draw enemy fire and protect the 980th Field Artillery Battalion (VIII Corps) as part of the Normandy Campaign;

(12) the rest of the soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops arrived in France in July and August of 1944;

(13) full-scale deception efforts began with Operation Elephant from July 1 to 4, 1944, in which the 23d Headquarters Special Troops covered the movement of the 2d Armored Division when it left a reserve position to go into the line between the First United States and Second British Armies;

(14) Operation Elephant was the first of the 21 full-scale tactical deceptions completed by the 23d Headquarters Special Troops;

(15) often operating on or near the front lines, the 23d Headquarters Special Troops used inflatable tanks, artillery, airplanes and other vehicles, advanced engineered soundtracks, and skillfully crafted radio trickery to create the illusion of sizable American forces where there were none and to draw the enemy away from Allied troops;

(16) the 3132d and the 3133d Signal Service Companies, activated in Pine Camp (now Fort Drum), New York, at the Army Experimental Station in March and June of 1944, respectively, were the only “sonic deception” ground combat units of the United States in World War II;

(17) soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops impersonated other, larger Army units by sewing counterfeit patches onto their uniforms, painting false markings on their vehicles, and creating phony headquarters staffed by fake generals, all in an effort to feed false information to Axis spies;

(18) during the Battle of the Bulge, the 23d Headquarters Special Troops created counterfeit radio traffic in an effort to deceive the enemy of the movement of elements of General George S. Patton’s Third Army as it shifted to break through to the 101st Airborne Division and elements of 10th Armored Division in the besieged Belgian town of Bastogne;

(19) in its final mission, Operation Viersen, in March 1945, the 23d Headquarters Special Troops conducted a tactical deception operation intended to draw German units down the Rhine River and away from the Ninth Army, allowing the Ninth Army to cross the Rhine into Germany;

(20) during Operation Viersen, the 23d Headquarters Special Troops, with the assistance of other units, impersonated 2 complete divisions of American forces by using fabricated radio networks, soundtracks of construction work and artillery fire, and hundreds of inflatable and real vehicles;

(21) according to a military intelligence officer of the 79th Infantry, “There is no doubt that Operation Viersen materially assisted in deceiving the enemy with regard to the real dispositions and intentions of this Army.”;

(22) 3 soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops gave their lives and dozens were injured in carrying out their mission;

(23) in April 1945, the 3133d Signal Service Company conducted Operation Craftsman in support of Operation Second Wind, the successful Allied effort to break through the German defensive position to the north of Florence, Italy, known as the Gothic Line;

(24) along with an attached platoon of British engineers, who were inflatable decoy specialists, the 3133d Signal Service Company used sonic deception to misrepresent troop locations along this defensive line;

(25) the activities of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company remained highly classified for more than 40 years after the war and received minimal recognition;

(26) the extraordinary accomplishments of this unit are deserving of belated official recognition; and

(27) the United States is eternally grateful to the soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company for their proficient use of innovative tactics during World War II, which saved lives and made significant contributions to the defeat of the Axis powers.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make ap-

propriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Services Company, known collectively as the “Ghost Army”, in recognition of unique and highly distinguished service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Services Company.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDAL.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The medals struck under this Act are national medals for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 3(d) shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purposes of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1404, the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire, Congresswoman KUSTER, for their work on this bill which honors the resourcefulness, imagination, and artistry of the men of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Company in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II.

This 1,100-man unit, known collectively as the Ghost Army, was made up of individuals recruited from creative fields, including art schools, theater and communications companies, and advertising agencies. Their mission was to draw upon their creative and artistic talents to lure the German Army away from the Allied combat units through a series of tactical deception operations meant to confuse, deceive, and mislead.

Following the D-Day landing in France, the Ghost Army undertook a traveling road show utilizing fake radio transmissions, inflatable tanks, and theatrical sound and atmospheric effects to misdirect German units away from actual Allied unit locations and toward larger imaginary ones.

The artists, architects, and engineers of the Ghost Army were so effective that a later Army analysis of their performance found that “rarely, if ever, has there been a group of such few men which had so great an influence on the outcome of a major military campaign.”

Yet, despite the overwhelming success of the citizen soldiers of the Ghost Army, their contributions remained classified for over 40 years, and their bravery and ingenuity was never formally recognized.

This bill honors their unique contributions to the war effort by directing the Mint to strike a gold medal in honor of the Ghost Army. The gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be available for display and serve as recognition of the incredible service of the men of the Ghost Army during World War II.

I thank Mr. MARKEY and Ms. KUSTER for their work on this bill, and I urge Members to vote “yes.”

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1404, the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act, the Senate version of H.R. 707, which the House passed in May 2021.

The Ghost Army, comprised of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, is renowned for creating large-scale deception operations capable of pulling Axis focus away from the actual movements of the Allied forces.

During the early phases of World War II, the 23rd division mastered their skill of deception by studying unit atmosphere and collecting materials for their new special effects tactics.

Knowing that enemy ground agents looked for vehicle bumper markings, Allied shoulder patches, and well-defined checkpoints, the 23rd collected shoulder patches for phony major generals, created realistic inflatable vehicles and artillery, and even recorded the sounds of heavy machinery movements to sell their deception. They built their own modern-day Trojan horse, down to the last detail.

The Ghost Army, unlike many other units, was comprised of civilian soldiers with a proclivity for art, architecture, acting, set design, and engineering.

As Jack Masey, who was recruited into the Ghost Army at age 18, remembered: "We were told we were going to be using inflatable equipment to try and fool the Germans into thinking that we were a real army, when we were, in effect, I suppose, a rubber army."

□ 1245

Anyone who has watched a History Channel World War II documentary has undoubtedly seen the Ghost Army in action. The historic videos and herculean photos of four men holding a tank over their heads is a testament to the Ghost Army's ingenuity and bravery during World War II.

The 23rd did not limit their deception to the battlefield. In fact, on numerous occasions Ghosters were dispatched to French cafes near the front of the war to order some omelets and talk loose among the spies who might be there. The 23rd would go to great lengths to cause chaos and confusion, and they succeeded.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing these true American heroes hits close to home for me, as the 77th Ghost Army veterans originated from the great State of Kentucky.

There is no doubt that the Ghost Army saved thousands of lives during World War II. Their unique and highly distinguished service during this great war should be recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ms. KUSTER, for her leadership on this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN. I yield 4½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of veterans who have gone unrecognized for far too long.

In World War II, top secret units known as the Ghost Army used combat deception to literally fool the Nazis. Their mission was to divert enemy forces away from American combat units so that our troops faced less resistance. This required creativity and a special kind of courage.

Whereas a typical American unit had tanks made of steel, the Ghost Army, as you have heard from my colleagues, Mr. BARR and Ms. DEAN, built tanks made of rubber and wood. Using inflatable equipment and sonic deception, the Ghost Army made it appear as if there were tens of thousands of combat troops when there were literally none.

If the Germans ever discovered this ruse, the Ghost Army would have been annihilated. Throughout the war, the Ghost Army took this risk and, using their creativity and artistic talents, played a decisive role in Allied combat operations.

As Mr. BARR noted, in evaluating the performance of these units after World War II, an Army analysis found rarely, if ever, has there been a group of such few men who had such great influence on the outcome of a major military campaign. I might note that was the campaign that turned the tide of World War II.

To this day, combat deception units in the Army learn about the tactics that were used by the Ghost Army so many years ago. In this sense, the brave actions of the Ghost Army still are keeping Americans safe to this day.

The Ghost Army's combat deceptions were so effective that the Army kept them classified for over 40 years after the war. Because of this classification, the great men of the Ghost Army were never properly recognized for their heroism and contributions to defeating fascism in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, as noted, the House passed the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act that I introduced last spring. The Senate is now asking passage of the companion bill, S. 1404, introduced by Mr. MARKEY. This would right the wrong by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to those living members of the Ghost Army. We will recognize the families of those who have passed.

I am proud that 75 years after their service, the Ghost Army is finally getting some of the recognition it earned.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the contributions of so many individuals in getting this bill over the finish line.

First, I want to thank my colleague, Representative STEWART, and his staff for dedicating themselves to this bill.

I also want to recognize a good friend of mine, Rick Beyer, and Roy Eichhorn. These two historians helped rediscover the Ghost Army's story and share it with the world.

Finally, I want to recognize all of the members of the Ghost Army Legacy Project. This coalition, made up largely of family members of Ghost Army veterans, worked tirelessly to help Representative STEWART and myself secure the 292 House cosponsors necessary to pass this bill.

It is a testament to this institution that a handful of passionate citizens, without the help of any special interest groups or lobbyists, can build the support necessary to send this legislation

to President Biden's desk. So it is fitting that we pass this bill today.

Of the more than 16 million Americans who served in World War II, barely more than 240,000 are still alive, including just nine members of the Ghost Army. We should never forget the contributions of the Ghost Army and all the servicemembers in World War II to preserve democracy around the world.

This is personal for me because my father, Malcolm McLane, was a fighter pilot and a POW during World War II. While today we rightfully single out the brave actions of the Ghost Army, I hope we also take a moment to remember all of our World War II veterans.

In closing, I want to note what made the Ghost Army special was not just their extraordinary courage but their creativity. Their story reminds us that listening to unconventional ideas, like using visual and sound deception, can help us solve existential challenges like defeating tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania. I thank my friend and colleague from New Hampshire.

I would just reiterate the significance of the Ghost Army. I thank my colleagues for recognizing these extraordinary members of the Greatest Generation and their significant contributions to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1404, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

On a personal note, I would like to recognize First Lieutenant Bernard Mason, mentioned in the text of this bill, for his leadership in leading the 16-man detachment of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops during the invasion of Normandy. Lieutenant Mason was a constituent of mine before his passing, and his wife and children still live in my district. I want to thank them for Lieutenant Mason's life and service. Today we are finally honoring his service and those of his brothers-in-arms in perpetuity.

The stories of the creativity and innovation displayed by the members of the Ghost Army during World War II read like something straight out of a Hollywood blockbuster script. The only thing missing is a Hollywood ending where the brave members of the Ghost Army are finally recognized for their lifesaving contributions to defeating the Axis Powers during World War II. This bill ensures official recognition for this heroic group of citizen soldiers and their unique contributions to the war effort.

I thank Mr. MARKEY and Ms. KUSTER, the lead sponsor of the House version of this bill, for ensuring that the stories of these men of the Ghost Army receive the recognition they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1404.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLIE O'REE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 452) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 452

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Willie O'Ree was the first Black player to compete in the National Hockey League (NHL), appearing for the Boston Bruins on January 18, 1958, in the throes of the civil rights movement in the United States helping to end racial segregation in the premier professional ice hockey league; he is widely referred to as the "Jackie Robinson of Hockey".

(2) Willie O'Ree was born October 15, 1935, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada; he is the youngest of 13 children and a descendant of Paris O'Ree, whose name appears in the famous historical document "The Book of Negroes".

(3) Willie O'Ree was raised by his parents in Fredericton, a predominantly White town where hockey was deeply rooted within the culture. O'Ree was a standout athlete on the ice and the baseball diamond.

(4) At age 21, O'Ree was being scouted by professional baseball teams and seriously considered baseball as a career. Upon experiencing the segregated South for the first time while appearing for a minor league tryout, his dream changed and his attention turned solely to ice hockey.

(5) While playing amateur hockey, Willie was struck in his right eye with a puck and lost his eyesight. He was told by doctors to abandon his hockey career; instead, never disclosing the extent of his injury, he pursued his dream of playing professional hockey.

(6) At the age of 22, O'Ree was called up from the Quebec Aces of the Quebec Hockey League (QHL) to play for the NHL's Boston Bruins at a time when only 6 teams existed in the league. O'Ree was unaware he had broken the color barrier at the top level of the sport until he read it in the newspaper the following day.

(7) Blind in 1 eye and a victim of racism at times throughout his career, O'Ree persevered and played professional hockey for 22 years, tallying over 1,000 points.

(8) In 1996, 17 years after O'Ree retired from professional hockey, the National Hockey League hired O'Ree as the first-ever Diversity Ambassador. Having already changed the game forever through his courage and convictions, O'Ree gives new definition to what it means to be a trailblazer.

(9) In this role as Diversity Ambassador with the NHL, O'Ree set out to grow the sport by providing access, opportunity, and motivation for children of all races, ethnicities, origins, and abilities. With O'Ree providing a vivid example of what is possible and serving as a relentless supporter of children pursuing their dreams, more than 30 nonprofit youth organizations, dubbed Hockey is for Everyone programs, were developed across North America, each committed to offering minority and underserved children an opportunity to play hockey, leveraging the sport to build character, foster positive values, and develop important life skills.

(10) Through Hockey is for Everyone programs, more than 120,000 boys and girls have been positively impacted. O'Ree has devoted nearly 2,500 days on the ground with the youth participants, visiting more than 500 schools, community centers, and rinks to speak to hockey's core values and beliefs: stay in school; set goals for yourself; remain committed and disciplined; and always respect your teammates, coaches, and parents.

(11) Hockey is for Everyone programs have provided important opportunities for youth to partake in physical fitness. Today in the United States, fewer than half of the children ages 6–11 engage in the recommended amount of physical activity, and that number is lower for low-income families. O'Ree has stood as a champion of youth athletic participation and its health benefits for decades.

(12) Hockey is for Everyone programs provide numerous off-ice services to youth: SAT and academic tutoring, mentoring, nutrition education, college counseling, community service opportunities, and more. The program has excelled at using hockey as a vehicle to improve the social and emotional wellness of youth and improve students' academic performances both in primary school and beyond.

(13) O'Ree was also named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2008 and, in 2018, the City of Boston released an official Proclamation recognizing January 18, the anniversary of the day he broke into the game, as "Willie O'Ree Day".

(14) In November 2018, 60 years after O'Ree entered the NHL, he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in the "builder" category in recognition of his efforts to grow the game, using his position and the platform of hockey to improve the lives of children throughout North America.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Willie O'Ree, or if unavailable, to a member of his family, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and an inscription of the name of, Willie O'Ree.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals

under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

(c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 452, the Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act.

I thank Michigan Senator STABENOW and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for their work on this bill which honors Willie O'Ree, a trailblazer for diversity and inclusion in sports and the first Black player in the National Hockey League.

Born in 1935 in the predominantly White town of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, O'Ree made a name for himself as a standout athlete in both ice hockey and baseball. At age 21, he was being scouted by professional baseball teams in the United States. However, upon experiencing racial discrimination and the effects of segregation firsthand while in the south for minor league tryouts, he shifted his focus solely to ice hockey.

In 1958, at the age of 22, O'Ree was called up to play professionally as a winger for the NHL Boston Bruins. In doing so, he became the first Black professional ice hockey player in the league. Despite being blind in one eye from an injury during his time as an amateur hockey player and enduring racist attacks from hockey fans and players alike, O'Ree persevered and continued to play professional hockey for 22 years.

In 1996, the National Hockey League hired O'Ree as its first-ever diversity ambassador, which set out to transform the predominantly White sport of ice hockey by providing greater access and opportunity for children of all races, ethnicities, and origins.